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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Drafting group
Seventh meeting
10 June 1994

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Draft declaration to be adopted at the Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

Proposals submitted by the Group of Non-Aligned Countries

Draft declaration to be adopted at the Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

1. We, the Heads of State or Government and Heads of Delegations to the Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, have met on this historic occasion and have reviewed the past performance of the United Nations, analysed its present situation and projected a vision for its future.

2. We have confirmed that the United Nations has played an important role in maintaining international peace and security, encouraging economic and social development and fostering a better understanding between the peoples of the world.

3. We are committed to redouble our efforts to promote peace, justice, equality and development on the basis of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

4. We recognize that lasting peace is the fundamental goal of humankind, and that it can only be achieved with sustained development and prosperity for all, through the attainment of a just and equitable system of international relations. In this context, we reiterate our belief that the United Nations is the central forum for the promotion of international peace and security, and prosperity world wide, as well as for the fostering of multilateral cooperation in the political, economic and social fields.

5. We applaud the important role that the United Nations has played in the process of decolonization, enabling a large number of peoples to realize their inherent rights to self-determination and independence.

6. We are determined that the remaining colonial territories shall be able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, on the basis of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, before the end of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. We reaffirm our abiding commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and reiterate our belief that the United Nations represents the most appropriate international forum for the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes and crises for the achievement of freedoms and for securing the right to self-determination of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation, for promoting democratic principles, for the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the attainment of just and equitable economic relations and social emancipation, as well as for the strengthening of friendly relations and peaceful co-existence among nations. We hereby affirm our determination to build upon the achievements of the United Nations and utilize its potential in order to advance our shared aspirations of peace, security and prosperity.

8. We consider that the East-West confrontation was the major factor that prevented the United Nations from fulfilling its tasks and, thus, from fully implementing its objectives as enshrined in the Charter. The structures of the United Nations and its bodies were also influenced by this confrontation and, thus, contributed as well to preventing the United Nations from fulfilling its role. In this context, the peaceful and political resolution of conflicts was extremely difficult to attain.

9. Although it had been assigned the central role in the field of disarmament, the United Nations was not able to play a decisive role in this field, as negotiations to that end were held outside the United Nations system.

10. The role of the United Nations in the field of economic development was also constrained, mainly due to its failure in carrying out a meaningful dialogue between developed and developing countries, which prevented the emergence of a system of international economic relations based on justice and equity. The main problems existing in fields of trade, primary products and commodities, money and finance, transfer of technology and external debt and debt service, were not addressed in a manner conducive to the development of developing countries.

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11. We recognize that the end of the East-West confrontation has created opportunities for the United Nations to realize fully its role and potential as envisioned in its Charter, and has increased expectations and hopes of all peoples in the world on the ability of the United Nations to address effectively issues of common global concern and interest. We are convinced of the need to adopt all necessary measures to strengthen the Organization and enhance its credibility in these new circumstances, mainly by the democratization of its structures and activities. In this regard, we believe that the United Nations as an organization can be more effective only if it allows for the fullest participation and engagement of all members of the United Nations in its work and decision-making processes.

12. We therefore resolve to continue the process of United Nations reform and restructuring, with a view to ensuring equal participation, equitable representation and appropriate balance between the United Nations organs, in line with the Charter of the Organization. We are convinced that we must endeavour to make the United Nations more responsive to the changing realities and challenges of peace and development.

13. We reiterate our commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts in accordance with the Charter and international law, and avoid recourse to unilateral coercive action.

14. We pledge to promote peace and mutual respect among all nations and peoples.

15. We consider unacceptable the developing, producing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as well as strategic doctrines based on the use or threat of use of such weapons. In this regard we resolve to continue the process towards the elimination of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction and the significant reduction of conventional and other kinds of armaments world wide, thereby making a real contribution to the security of all peoples around the world.

16. We recognize the central role of the United Nations on all issues of disarmament. In this regard we affirm that regional and global approaches to disarmament and arms limitation complement each other and both should be pursued simultaneously in order to promote regional and international peace and security. In this context we also emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to disarmament issues on a non-discriminatory basis.

17. We believe that resources released by the reduction of military expenditures should be devoted to economic growth and development, thereby contributing to promote international economic cooperation and the security of all peoples.

18. While we recognize the importance of peace-keeping operations of the United Nations and their contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, their changing nature, characteristics and objectives make it more necessary than ever to prepare comprehensive principles and guidelines for peace-keeping operations. We reaffirm in this context that all aspects of United Nations peace-keeping operations should strictly adhere to the purposes

and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We are committed to continue future United Nations peace-keeping operations on this basis.

19. We also reaffirm that United Nations resources for peace-keeping activities should not be at the expense of resources for the development activities of the United Nations and, in this regard, we shall endeavour to ensure an equitable and just balance of resources available to the United Nations in order to meet the true needs of peoples around the world.

20. We are determined to continue promoting an approach to international peace and security that does not rely solely on coercive measures and sanctions, but on means to encourage and secure friendly relations between peoples with different political, ideological, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, full respect for international law, and peaceful settlement of disputes.

21. We also recognize and reaffirm that full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of States is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security.

22. We are committed to multilateralism and are particularly determined to reinvigorate the prospects for growth and sustained economic development with a view to substantially increasing the prosperity of all peoples, and effecting, by the end of the century, a substantial improvement in the economic and social conditions of the vast majority of the human race who continue to live in severe poverty. In this regard, we reaffirm the crucial role of the United Nations, both as forum for discussions and as a catalyst for action by Governments and peoples.

23. Given the deepening and growing interdependence of nations and peoples, we are fully conscious of the fact that a dynamic, vigorous and equitable international economic environment is essential for international peace, security, stability and prosperity.

24. We underline that one of the most serious problems facing the world today is the gap that exists between the rich and the poor countries, between the developed nations which possess enormous economic, scientific and technological resources and those that continue to live in poverty. This gap, despite the several international development strategies and other documents adopted by the United Nations, has continued to widen, and constitutes today the major cause of instability around the world. We are convinced that the world cannot achieve peace without effectively redressing this problem.

25. Recognizing that ad hoc approaches do not fully address global economic problems, we therefore commit ourselves to the following comprehensive measures:

- To commence the renewed dialogue between the developed and developing countries on all development issues in response to the imperatives of mutual benefit and interest, genuine interdependence and shared responsibility.

- To conduct this dialogue and implement measures on the basis of the commitments on development, especially the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of Developing Countries, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Cartagena Commitment, the United Nations new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s, the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries in the 1990s, Agenda 21, and the various consensus agreements and conventions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the level of Heads of State and Government and mark the beginning of a new global partnership for sustainable development, which all together provide the overall framework on international cooperation for development.

- To continue efforts to develop a more open, viable, transparent and durable multilateral trading system in order to promote growth and development and the freer movement of factors of production.

- To maintain efforts at market-oriented and socially acceptable economic reforms in conjunction with improving the external economic environment in order to expand multilateral economic cooperation, and increase the meaningful participation of all peoples in their respective economies and development processes.

26. Noting that technology is a key factor for development, we shall cooperate in facilitating the transfer of technology and the access of all peoples and nations to modern technologies.

*27. We acknowledge that in a world overwhelmed by social tensions, international cooperation contributes towards reducing or eliminating poverty, generating productive employment and enhancing social integration which in turn would have a positive impact on international peace and security. In this connection we believe that it is essential to take appropriate action to all levels so as to implement the Plan of Action which encompassed the three core issues on social development as adopted in the World Summit on Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

*28. We believe in the equal role of women in all spheres of life. We are committed to take concrete action to implement the following:

- The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

- The Platform of Action Adopted in the World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995.

*29. We stress the need to secure the future and welfare of children. We are therefore committed to take further concrete measures at all levels to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the General Assembly resolution on policies and programme involving youth, particularly in the preparation of a draft world youth's programme of action to the year 2000 and beyond.

*30. Recognizing the need to integrate population issues into economic and development strategies, we are committed to carry out the action programme adopted in the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994.

*31. We stress the need to intensify cooperation with regard to natural disaster reduction, disaster relief and post-disaster rehabilitation, particularly in the developing countries, constantly threatened by natural disasters, in order to enhance their capabilities to cope with such situations. We express our commitment to carry out the programme of action adopted in the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama in May 1994.

32. Noting that outer space and the vast oceans have great potential for peaceful research and exploration, we pledge to build upon our cooperation in the activities in outer space and the exploration of deep seas for the common benefit of humankind.

33. We are committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard we affirm that we shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity and the spirit of constructive international dialogue and cooperation on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

34. We recognize that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that as such are of equal importance and should be addressed in a balanced and integrated manner.

35. We pledge that human rights shall be promoted and protected with due regard for the varying historical, political, economic, social, religious and cultural realities of all peoples.

36. We also resolve that the promotion and protection of all human rights shall not be politicized.

Note: The paragraphs preceded by an asterisk contain mention to international instruments yet to be adopted or concluded and, thus, are not definitive.